

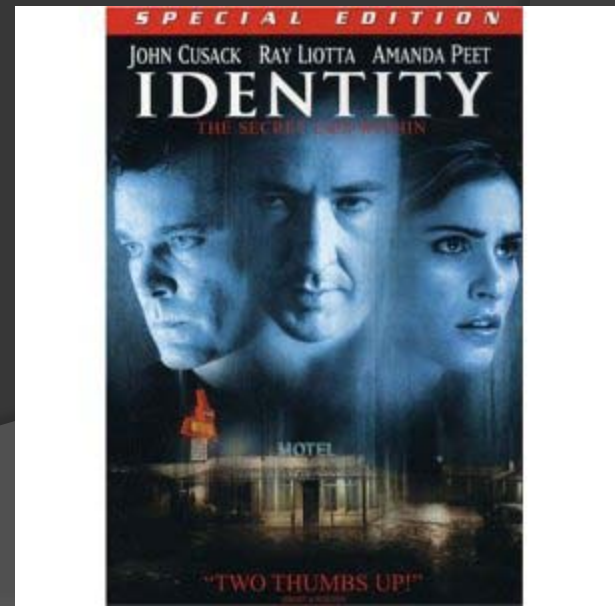
# THOMAS REID “OF IDENTITY”

By Ben Hall



# Our Conviction Of Identity

- ⦿ All men have the conviction that they have identity as far back as their memory goes.
- ⦿ In order to remember the past, we must have the conviction we existed then.
- ⦿ We must have the conviction of our identity and our continued existence as soon as we are reasonable creatures.



# Reid's Definition of Identity

- ...Or his lack thereof
- Definition of identity is too simple to give a definition.
- In general, identity is a relation between something known at one time, and one thing known to have existed.
- Identity assumes uninterrupted existence, therefore, identity cannot be assigned to ideas



# Myself As a Monad

- People are indivisible, like Leibnitz's *monads*.
- If a person is divided (ex. loses an arm) they are still the same person.
- Identity implies the existence of "something I call *myself*" (Reid, 344)
- Myself is not thought, action, feelings... Myself is something that thinks, acts, feels, etc.



# Evidence That You Are You

- Memory gives the most irreversible evidence of consistent identity. If it was done by me, I must have existed then.
- However, memory alone does not prove that I did something (memory can be incorrect)
- Other external factors can prove that we did something.
- Memory can only assure that I may have done something.



# Perfect and Imperfect

## Identity

- ⦿ A person can't doubt his own identity; personal identity is perfect, and cannot be in degree or part.
- ⦿ Assigned identity to other people or objects is imperfect
- ⦿ Evidence of our own 'perfect identity' is based on memory and undoubted certainty.
- ⦿ Evidence of assigned 'imperfect identity' is based on similarities and circumstance.

